

USAF Public Health Career Field News

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Still More USAFSAM Graduates Excel in '97

Seems every day brings news of
another success story among our
PH associates. Impressive...



Mac

SrA Jodi Lanning, 4E, Osan AB: 51st AMDS
Airman of the Quarter, 2nd Qtr, 97

TSgt Enrique Jimenez, 4E, Osan AB: 51st
AMDS NCO of the Qtr, 2nd Qtr, 97

Mrs Kim, Song Sin, PH technician, Osan AB:
51st Medical Group and 51st Wing civilian of the
Qtr, 2nd Qtr, 97

TSgt Kevin D. Schmitz, 4E, Brooks AFB: 70th
Medical Squadron and 70th Air Base Group
NCO of the Qtr, 3rd Qtr, 97

1Lt Matthew Shim, PH Officer, Kelly AFB:
CGO of the Qtr, 3rd Qtr, 97

SrA Chad Brown, 4E, Yakota AB: 374th
AMDS, Amn of the Qtr, 2nd Qtr 97

SSgt Danielle Dubois, 4E, Yakota AB, 374th
AMDS and 374th Medical Group, NCO of the
Qtr, 1st Qtr 97

1Lt James Coker, PHO, Yakota AB:
374th AMDS and 374th Medical
Group, CGO of the Qtr, 3rd Qtr 97

Looking Beyond the Headlines of 1997

by Staff Sgt. Amy Hickey, AMC News
Service (Thanks to **This Week in the
Surgeon General's Office** for passing this
story on to us)

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill.
(AFNS) -- On the surface, 1997 was a difficult
year for the Air Force.

But if you dig deeper, beyond the
headlines, soundbites, book excerpts and "in-
depth" stories, the Air Force had one of its
best years in history. From humanitarian
missions at home and abroad to preserving
peace in every corner of the world, the force
achieved unprecedented success.

Its presence in Bosnia and Kuwait
allowed children to walk to school without the
threat of gunfire and families to sleep without
the fear that their homes would be invaded
during the night.

As Haiti wrestled with democracy, Air
Force **medics** cared for its residents, providing
free medical care and performing critical
surgeries. In Guyana, blue suiters injected
hundreds of children with
life-saving immunizations. Worldwide, the
force transported 40,000 patients to hospitals

for specialized medical treatment. The president of an Asian nation, premature babies and countless others were saved by the responsive actions of American airmen throughout the world.

When a savage typhoon ripped through southern Vietnam and left tens of thousands of people homeless, the Air Force was there, delivering nearly half-a-million-dollars worth of relief supplies.

In a remote area of the Amazon jungle, airmen worked diligently to protect America from illegal drugs. Using radar and satellite systems, they were able to thwart numerous planes attempting to smuggle drugs out of Peru.

In Veracruz, Panama, Air Force engineers battled disease-carrying mosquitoes. They removed washing machines, stoves and bus tires from the town's curbs -- junk that collected water and became a breeding haven for mosquitoes that carry dengue fever. The Air Force destroyed 80 percent of the mosquito hideouts in the city, sparing many residents from the painful and potentially fatal disease.

Its members fought raging forest fires in Indonesia, built schools and medical clinics in South America, and delivered clothes and toys to needy orphans in Eastern Europe.

The force was also busy at home.

In January, it hauled 36,000 pounds of winter supplies to a Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Without clothing and blankets provided by the force, many of the 12,000 Native Americans living in substandard housing on the reservation may not have survived the blustery winter.

When spring flooding threatened a small town in North Dakota, Air Force members helped stuff 2.5 million sandbags and build several miles of dikes in an attempt to avert the rising Red River. When the town's 60,000 residents had to be evacuated, airmen at Grand Forks Air Force Base welcomed

them into their homes, providing safe places to sleep and hot meals. The Air Force delivered 150 tons of relief supplies, and its members dug deep into their own pockets to raise nearly \$200,000 for families who had lost everything to the merciless river.

Across the nation, countless children benefited from the generosity of Air Force members who spent their off-duty time as mentors, Scout leaders, coaches, ministers, tutors and volunteers. They dished out food at homeless shelters, built homes for low-income families, shared memories with ailing veterans and raised millions of dollars for cancer and AIDS research and various other charities.

These efforts didn't receive national attention. Maybe they were shrouded by bad publicity. But bad publicity doesn't change facts. In 1997, the Air Force worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week to make America and the world a better place...

It was a busy year. (Courtesy AMC News Service)